

Project Description

The primary purpose of this project is to improve traffic flow along three locations of Interstate 81 by constructing truck climbing lanes.

The planned truck climbing lanes would be located northbound at mile marker 32.4 in the Glade Spring area of Washington County, northbound at mile marker 39.5 in the Seven Mile Ford area of Smyth County, and southbound at mile marker 34 in Washington County.

The design of this project is in compliance with the Stormwater Management Act, stormwater regulations and the annual stormwater management standards and specifications approved by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. The construction of

this project will conform to the nationwide best management practices, VDOT specifications and special provisions, and the Virginia Department of Soil and Water conservation regulations. Also, during construction, every reasonable effort will be made to protect the environment with respect to dust and erosion control. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction.

Potential impacts to the flood plains will be evaluated and addressed on this project.

During construction, traffic impacts will be minimal because the majority of the work will occur adjacent to the travel lanes. There may be periodic nighttime lane closures.

Estimated Project Cost

Total Cost:  
**\$47.8 million (combined)**  
**Northbound at mile marker 32.4**  
Engineering: \$1.3 million, Right of Way: \$1.1 million, and Construction: \$14.5 million

**Northbound at mile marker 39.5**  
Engineering: \$1.4 million, Right of Way: \$0, and Construction: \$12.6 million

**Southbound at mile marker 34**  
Engineering: \$1.3 million, Right of Way: \$1.4 million, and Construction: \$14.3 million

*The cost is subject to change.*

Environmental Review

VDOT’s Bristol District Environmental Office has initiated environmental reviews and coordination to obtain information about environmental resources in the project vicinity, to provide natural and historic resource agencies an opportunity to review and comment on the project during its development, and to identify opportunities for avoidance, minimization and mitigation of potential environmental impacts. The project will continue to be coordinated with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies as part of various environmental review processes including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A NEPA documents in the form of a categorical exclusion was prepared for each project in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines. The NEPA document includes information from various technical reviews including those related to natural resources, water quality, threatened and endangered species, air quality, noise, etc. All required environmental clearances and permits will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. Strict compliance with all environmental conditions and commitments resulting from regulatory approvals, and implementation of VDOT’s specifications and standard best management practices will protect the environment during construction.

Anticipated Schedule

**The following schedule has been proposed:**  
**Comment Period** – April 2021  
**Mile marker 32.4 north:** Right of Way - Spring 2022, Construction – Summer 2023  
**Mile marker 39.5 north:** Construction – Summer 2022  
**Mile marker 34 south:** Right of way – Spring 2022; Construction – Summer 2023

Civil Rights

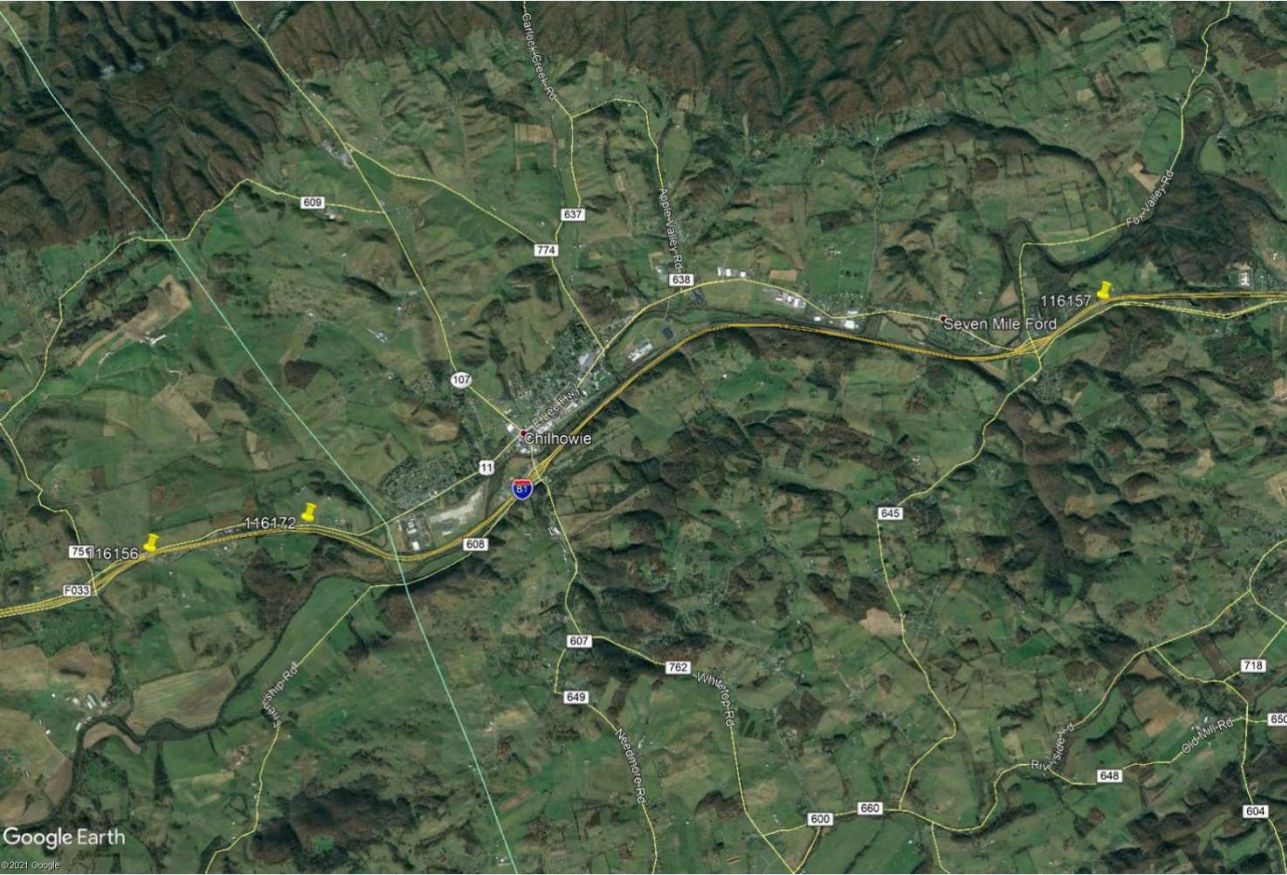
VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information in regards to your civil rights on this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager listed on the back of this brochure.

Right of Way

Displays on the public meeting website show the extent of right of way that may be needed as the project is currently proposed. As the design in further developed, additional easements and right of way may be required beyond what is shown in the preliminary plans. Property owners will be informed of the exact location of the easements during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT’s brochure, “Right of Way and Utilities: a Guide for Property Owners and Tenants.” A link to the brochure is available on the public meeting website.

Map



### Get Involved

Ten days after this public hearing, on April 30, 2021, the public comment period will close. VDOT will review and evaluate any information received as a result of this meeting.

This information, including the meeting summary, will be available for review at the VDOT office address listed below. After all comments have been addressed, the information received as a result of the meeting will be presented to VDOT’s Chief Engineer or designee for consideration.

If approval of the major design features is received for this project, it will move forward to the final design phase followed by construction.

### Contact Information

<b>Primary Contact:</b> <b>James “Jim” Jones</b>	Location and Design	870 Bonham Road Bristol, VA 24201	276-696-3257	Jamesr.Jones @vdot. virginia.gov
<b>David Duncan</b>	Bristol District Right of Way Manager	870 Bonham Road Bristol, VA 24201	276-696-3352	david.duncan @vdot. virginia.gov
<b>Mary Ann Altum</b>	Bristol District Office of Civil Rights	870 Bonham Road Bristol, VA 24201	276-696-3244	maryann.altum @vdot. virginia.gov
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[SalemInfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:SalemInfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov)

### Virtual Design Public Meeting

## Interstate 81 Truck Climbing Lanes Smyth/Washington Counties

Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 5 p.m.  
*Inclement weather date: April 27, 2021, 5 p.m.*  
<https://www.virginiadot.org/i81SWVAtrucklanes>

### Public Meeting

**The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) welcomes you to the virtual design public meeting for the proposed construction of three truck climbing lanes on Interstate 81: northbound at mile marker 32.4 in Washington County, northbound at mile marker 39.5 in Smyth County, and southbound at mile marker 34 in Washington County.**

This virtual public meeting is being held to provide an opportunity for any person, acting on his/her own behalf or representing a group or governing agency, to give the department his or her comments and/or suggestions concerning the proposed project after reviewing the project information.

VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation projects and programs affecting them.

VDOT representatives are present to discuss the project and answer your questions.

An online survey or comment sheet are included on the webpage for this meeting, and your input is encouraged. All oral and written comments received on this project will be included in a transcript for review by VDOT personnel, citizens and other interested parties.

Representatives from VDOT are available to discuss the project and answer your questions.

### Project Description

#### Northbound at Mile Marker 32.4

*From mile marker 32.197 to mile marker 33.519*

**Cost** – \$16.9 million

**From** – mile marker 32.197

**To** – mile marker 33.458

**Total length** – 1.261 mile  
(UPC# 116156)

#### Northbound at Mile Marker 39.5

*From mile marker 39.367 to mile marker 40.963*

**Cost** – \$13.9 million

**From** – mile marker 39.701

**To** – mile marker 40.774

**Total length** – 1.073 mile  
(UPC# 116157)

#### Southbound at Mile Marker 34

*From mile marker 32.823 to mile marker 34.253*

**Cost** – \$16.9 million

**From** – mile marker 32.880

**To** – mile marker 34.128

**Total length** – 1.248 miles  
(UPC# 116172)